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**Yves Klein: Air Architecture
Curated by François Perrin**

March 8 – April 30, 2005

Opening reception:
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Storefront for Art and Architecture is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition: *Yves Klein: Air Architecture*, curated by François Perrin.

Renowned French conceptualist Yves Klein (1928-1962) produced a prescient body of work concerning the concept of air architecture – an immaterial architecture. From 1957 to 1962, Klein developed “Air Architecture,” a visionary project of living environments designed to reconnect people with the Earth and its elements. This concept represents an architecture that engages climate at the origin of its design process, with the ultimate goal of radically transforming society.

Klein’s project modified the climate at the surface of the Earth in order to create conditions of a “new Eden.” He argued that the climatic conditioning of large geographic areas would allow people to live outdoors in new types of communities. Klein’s proposal for building reflected an inverted architecture where existing structures were placed underground and above-ground structures utilized only natural elements such as air, water and fire. He examined the use of air as an envelope to serve as a barrier from the weather. Fire and water provided control of the climate. Furniture was produced with pulsated air, creating beds and platforms on which people could interact.

For the first time, this aspect of Klein’s work is the focus of an exhibition. *Yves Klein: Air Architecture* offers an opportunity to consider the artist’s architectural projects and theories. The exhibition features drawings, texts, photography, sculpture and film, including work Klein produced in collaboration with architects Claude Parent and Werner Ruhnau.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue.

Yves Klein: Air Architecture was originally produced by the MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House, Los Angeles, and first shown there in 2004. www.makcenter.org

The work in the exhibition is from the Yves Klein Archive in Paris. This exhibition is made possible in part by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and Federal Chancellery, Department for the Arts of the Republic of Austria; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Lafetra Family Foundation; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Etant Donnés (the French-American Fund for Contemporary Art), the French Cultural Services and the City of West Hollywood.

Images available upon request.



Yves Klein: Air Architecture

Curated by François Perrin

Organized by the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, LA

Exhibition

Yves Klein: Air Architecture presents exclusively, for the first time, the artist's exploration of the void and its utopian implications as they applied to an immaterial architecture. Including examples of landmark works from throughout Yves Klein's career (monochromes, anthropometries, cosmogonies, etc.), the exhibition demonstrates a trajectory of the artist's work as he strove towards a state of immateriality or "pure sensibility." Relying upon technology and the use of the four elements — fire, water, air and earth — Klein envisioned an Edenic world in which man lived in harmony with the natural elements, controlled through the mechanisms of Air Architecture. Collaborating first with German architect, Werner Ruhnau and later with architect Claude Parent, his ideas were translated into architectural drawings and renderings.

The installation design by contemporary architect and exhibition curator François Perrin presents the artist's works in vitrines inspired by Klein's ideas. The accompanying publication contextualizes Air Architecture within contemporary art, architecture and design practice, demonstrating the relevancy of the artist's ideas today.

Publication

A 144 page book published by Hatje Cantz will accompany the exhibition. Featuring the first English translation of Yves Klein's famous lecture at the Sorbonne in 1959, along with his other writings on air architecture and immateriality, the publication offers both historical accounts and contemporary perspectives on the artist's oeuvre. Edited by Peter Noever and François Perrin this publication features essays by Mark Wigley, Sylvere Lotringer and Juli Carson as well as an illustrated chronology of Klein's life and work. Color plates feature architectural drawings related to Klein's Air Architecture and photograph's illustrating the evolution of de-materialized architecture.

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YVES KLEIN: AIR ARCHITECTURE

**MAK Center Presents First U.S. Exhibit
of Visionary Architectural Work**

Extensive Program of Public Events Augments Exhibition

(West Hollywood, April 10, 2004) Renowned French conceptualist Yves Klein (1928-1962) produced a prescient body of work concerning the concept of air architecture – an immaterial architecture. For the first time, this aspect of Klein’s work is the focus of an exhibition. Presented by the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, L.A., *Yves Klein: Air Architecture* offers an opportunity to consider the artist’s architectural projects and theories. The exhibition will feature drawings, texts, photography, sculpture and film from the Yves Klein Archive in Paris and will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue. Scheduled to open May 12, 2004 and on view through August 29, the exhibition is curated by architect François Perrin, who is also designing a site-specific installation for the Schindler House.

For many, Yves Klein brings to mind electrifying blue paintings, the famous “leap into the void” and the first empty white cube. Klein’s architectural projects were developed concurrently, and dominated the efforts of his final years. A natural extension of his interest in immateriality and dedication to working with the natural elements—fire, air and water—Klein’s thinking about architecture began in 1958, when he was commissioned to decorate the Gelsenkirchen Opera House under the direction of Werner Ruhnau. In 1959, he began working with architect Claude Parent to create the Air Architecture drawings.

Air Architecture advanced Klein’s ideas for creating a utopia that would return direct sensation to daily life. He proposed to manufacture a climate-controlled environment in which people could roam naked, in direct contact with the earth, sky and one another. Compressed air would be used to erect transparent walls, roof, even furniture. Service areas, such as kitchens, bathrooms, storage, etc., would be relegated to underground spaces. Klein felt his vision for life on earth negated the

need to explore outer space. Instead, he insisted, "The conquest of space will indeed be achieved by restoring the legendary Eden, which will allow Man to be impregnated with sensibility in space."

In an adaptation of Yves Klein's architectural principles, François Perrin has created an environment, the *Weather Station*, to modify the climate of the Schindler House. With no air conditioning and low, dark wood ceilings, the house can become extremely warm in summer, and quite chilly at night. Perrin will install a weather station on the roof of the house to record local conditions. Transferred to a computer, this information will activate humidifiers, heaters, spray mists and fans to mitigate conditions in and around the house. Perrin has also designed a silver fabric canopy to provide shade.

Special features of the MAK Center exhibition include audio stations where the public may listen to Klein's famed *Monotone Symphony* (1949), a composition for chamber orchestra combining tones and silence, as well as a recording of the artist's 1959 lecture at the Sorbonne, *The Evolution of Art Towards the Immaterial*. In this seminal talk, Klein presented his philosophy of Air Architecture in the context of his own artistic and spiritual development.

Scheduled to debut with the exhibition, the publication *Yves Klein: Air Architecture* contains many writings by Yves Klein, including the first English translation of his 1959 lecture at the Sorbonne. In addition to introductory pieces by curator Perrin and MAK Vienna Director Peter Noever, the volume includes essays by writer and publisher Sylvere Lotringer (*Semiotexte*), art historian Juli Carson and architecture historian Mark Wigley (Columbia University). At a time when ephemerality and immateriality are important concepts in architecture and design, this Hatje Cantz publication contributes to the discourse.

Public Events

Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Opening reception

No admission charge.

Saturday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.

Curatorial Walk-Through

Guest curator François Perrin will lead visitors through the exhibition and discuss his installation design and the work on view.

Free with Schindler House admission, \$5.



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Storefront for Art and Architecture; National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC); and Mr. Robert M. Rubin

Thursday, June 3, 7 p.m.

LA Forum On The Map lecture series: François Perrin, Microclimates

This talk will present Perrin's latest built projects, as well as a discussion of the environmental aspects of Yves Klein's architectural work, including climate control, global warming and sustainable energy.

Admission \$10.

Thursday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.

The Films of Yves Klein at the American Cinematheque

Yves Klein asked professionals from Paris' Gaumont Studio to shoot some of his performances and ephemeral pieces. Recently restored by the Pompidou Centre, 17 of these films will be screened at the Egyptian Theater, 6712 Hollywood Boulevard.

Cost: \$9 general admission; \$1 advance reservation fee (323) 466-FILM.

Wednesday, July 14, 7:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion - Site(ing) Yves Klein

Art historians Sylvere Lotringer and Juli Carson will be joined by art critic Rachel Kushner and architect and exhibition curator François Perrin in a discussion moderated by MAK Center Assistant Director/Curator Lauri Firstenberg.

Free with Schindler House admission, \$5.

Tuesday, August 10, 7:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion - Yves Klein: Architecture and the Future

MAK Center Director Kimberli Meyer will moderate a discussion with Michael Speaks, Head, Metropolitan Research + Design, SCI-Arc; urban theorist and critic Norman Klein; Sylvia Lavin, Chair, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design; and exhibition curator François Perrin.

Free with Schindler House admission, \$5.

August, TBD

Judo Demonstration and Tea Ceremony

Yves Klein studied and practiced judo throughout his adult life, and spent extensive time in Japan. Asian philosophy and the principles of the martial arts informed his vision of architecture and space. These events will offer a direct experience of these influences and are geared to all ages.

Free with admission to the Schindler House, \$5. Contact the MAK Center for details.

Yves Klein: Air Architecture will be on view at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House from May 13 through August 29, 2004. The MAK Center is located at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood, CA. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5. For further information, contact www.MAKcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

This exhibition and publication is made possible in part by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and Federal Chancellery, Department for the Arts of the Republic of Austria; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Lafetra Family

Foundation; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Etant Donnés (the French-American Fund for Contemporary Art) and the City of West Hollywood. The opening reception is made possible with the support of the French Cultural Services and the Consul General of Austria.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.



